



rivers&trails

National
Park
Service



rivers, trails, and conservation assistance program

COLORADO RIVER HERITAGE GREENWAY

Project Goal

To have a combined land and river trails greenway system that provides an educational, cultural, and scenic experience for users of all ages.

Background

A local river outfitter/activist prodded City of Bullhead City officials to work towards preserving public access on the remaining undeveloped land along the Colorado River within the City's jurisdiction. His persistence led the city to request assistance from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to help lead a community-based planning effort.

The current ad hoc advisory committee is largely made up of local residents who have invested considerable effort into identifying three alternatives for a multi-use trail and have pin-pointed areas for non-motorized boating facilities. In addition the group has organized a trail walk led by the Mayor and a "fun float" sponsored by numerous businesses in Bullhead City. These events and other public outreach efforts have done a lot to garner community support for the project.

Support by the city council has increased to the point where they have established a Bullhead City Trails Task Force, so that the city can provide more staff support to the planning process. Timing for this transition is excellent because the ad hoc group recently filed for 501c3 status and will change their focus to trail fund raising.

Boating the Colorado River Greenway



National Park Service Role

RTCA staff assisted the project in the following ways:

- Helped organize an advisory committee comprised of city and county staff, state and federal agencies, business owners, service clubs, and local citizens to encourage broad-base support for the project.
- Encouraged and assisted in organizing a "trail walk" and "fun-float" to increase public involvement in a fun and meaningful way.
- Prepared a project brochure and two larger presentation boards featuring the project's vision and goals. The brochure was distributed throughout the community and the presentation boards were used at various community events to promote the project.

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- Identified potential trail routes and led “windshield” tours to help build understanding for the trails feasibility with city staff and other partners.
- Informed city staff about funding opportunities and helped write the nomination for the trail to be added to the state trails system (making it eligible for state heritage grant monies).
- Facilitated monthly advisory committee meetings, helped organize agendas, and designed a planning process.

Project Results to Date

- Identified three viable trail alignment options.
- The trail proposal was accepted into the State Trails System (eligibility requirement for State Heritage Grants).
- Awarded a \$72,000 grant for the Rotary Park phase of the trail that will be matched by \$90,000 from the City.
- Have sponsored or participated in five community events.
- Lobbied successfully to have the category “water trails” added to the State Trails System.
- Established a City of Bullhead City Trails Task Force.
- Established the “Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association.”

Project Partners

- City of Bullhead City
- Desert River Outfitters
- Arizona Game & Fish
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation

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